

Club offers skiing for all levels

By ANDY HODGES
Tar Heel Sports Editor

A warm, sunny day; a cool, clear lake beneath your feet; expert instruction; and all the equipment you could possibly need are just about all a water skier could ask. And the UNC Water Ski Club has all the answers.

The club, now in its fourth year, is open to all students regardless of skill level, said head driver Ken Crowder.

"We have both beginners and experts in the club," said Crowder. "Basically, the expert skiers will take the first-timers out and get them started and give them advice depending on what kind of skiing they want to do."

"Some people join the club just because they want to learn to ski and have a good time," he added. "Others might want to do some slalom- or trick-skiing."

Crowder, who has been in the club for two years, said it presently has only 15 to 20 members, but the number will increase to about 40 or 50 during the fall and spring semesters.

The club has its own Master Craft ski boat and does its skiing on Orange Lake in Hillsborough, about 18 miles from the UNC campus. The club uses funds from student fees and membership dues of \$25 per year to pay for the boat, boat storage, skis, ropes, life jackets and other equipment. The money is also used to buy insurance and to recruit new members.

Crowder said the club has a number of licensed drivers, but it also has a procedure through which others can become licensed. The procedure includes going out in the boat with a licensed driver three times to observe, going out twice to drive under the supervision of a licensed driver and taking a written test.

"We're very careful about who drives the boat," said Crowder. "We don't just turn it loose to anybody."

Crowder said that as a member of the Sports Club Council, a University organization, the club also recognizes its responsibility to the University.

"We don't allow any alcohol or horseplay when we go skiing," he said. "We try to run a first-class operation when we're out on the lake because we represent the University. When people see our boat out there they know it belongs to the University of North Carolina."

The club holds weekly meetings on Tuesday nights during the fall and spring semesters, Crowder said, and outings are scheduled for times that are convenient for both members and drivers. Drivers usually take up to six people per outing.

The Sports Club Council also sponsors other clubs such as cycling, boxing, parachuting, sailing and ice hockey. Anyone who would like more information on these or any of the council's 17 other clubs can contact the SCC office at 962-1013.

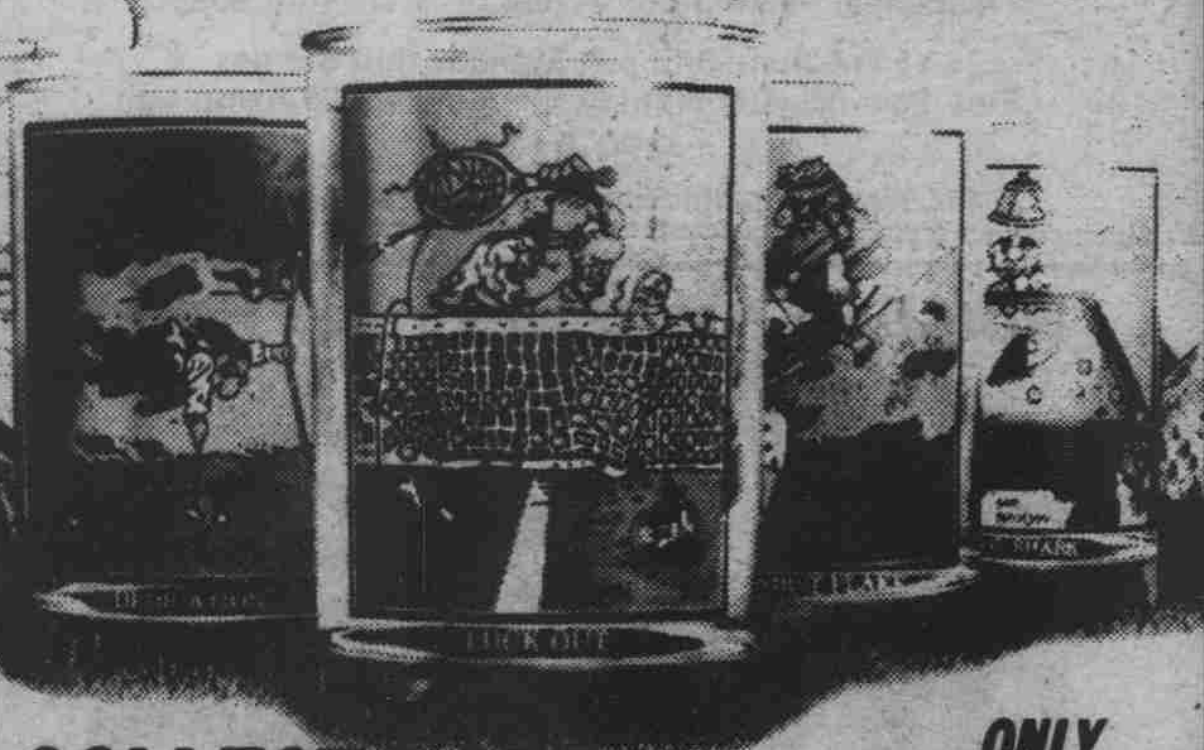


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Ski club member on Orange Lake

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